Autumn in Germany

Firstly, thank you so much for your patience with this update. I let you know of multiple big things coming up, then made you hold your breath for a couple of months! Well, the time has come, and I have some wonderful updates for you and plenty of pictures to help you capture the vision of what's going on over here in Europe and in Germany.

How Did Surgery Go?

I had surgery to excise endometriosis lesions from my abdomen at the end of August, and praise God for how the surgery went! There were so many people praying, and those prayers were definitely felt. The surgery itself went very smoothly, and I was back home the same day. After a few days of resting on the couch and penguin waddling around the living room if I needed to get up, I was astounded by how good I felt. There was discomfort those first two weeks, but I have had ZERO pain since surgery! My parents flew out for a couple of weeks to keep me company and help take care of me while I recovered, and I was surrounded by friends who came for meals or to hang out. My journey with endometriosis is not done, as it is a chronic disease, but my doctors and I are confident about improving my quality of life and slowing the progress of any more disease growing back. The next time you haven't heard from me in a while, you can now assume I have picked up marathon running or powerlifting, as I haven't felt this good in years!



Good energy before surgery



Watching BCF church online during recovery



Finally out and about for ice-cream

Annual Leaders Conference

A few weeks after healing, I headed down to Lisbon, Portugal, for my first annual leadership conference with GEM! This is one of my larger responsibilities for the year, and I was so happy with how it went.

Since this was my first one, I did a “reverse shadow” with the person who has been in my role for the past several years, and it was great to have that backup when I hit a moment where I wasn’t sure what the best move was. My week was busy shuffling 100 of our leaders around to different sessions, meals, and capturing highlights from the sessions.

This was such a neat conference to be a part of. The theme was BUILD, and we started each morning going through Neamiah with the group. Then throughout the day, our speakers worked with them on how being strategic and making plans has a place in the church, in ministry, and in disciple-making. We saw Jesus do this too! Our afternoons were practical workshops to get our leaders to start making plans for their teams and helping their teams catch the vision of working together to make disciples.

Throughout the Fall and Winter, this is something we continue working with our leaders on. I can’t wait to share some reports from our teams throughout Europe!





One of our sessions in Lisbon and the sunrise from the hotel

Life & Language

I am back in language school, and it has its ups and downs. Some days I really feel like I got it, other days I don’t. Last Sunday at church, I had a little win. I did my best to stay in German during our discussion while throwing out the occasional word in English when I couldn’t remember the translation. Near the end of the day, I was telling someone a story, and as I finished, he said, “Emily! How are you speaking so much German? You are speaking so much!” The irony of that compliment was that it seemed to startle me out of a flow state of sorts, because suddenly I couldn’t understand or say anything anymore!

Life is settling down for the colder months, and I love it. So far, this has included a lot of hosting for me. My roommate, Eszter, moved out and got married. I hosted her bridal shower, then later in the month, a couple of other gatherings.



The bride to be!



Making her a gown out of toilet paper



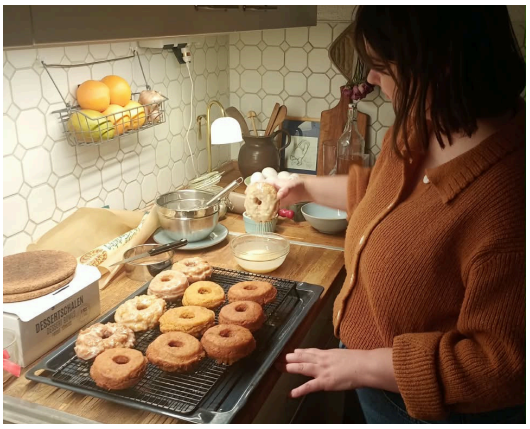
Wedding day!

I have many friends here who struggle with seasonal depression, and it gave me the idea to host a "Change of Season Celebration" with them! We invited a few others to join us, and spent an afternoon remembering the good and the hard from the Summer—giving God gratitude for the good, and releasing to Him the hard. Then after some coffee and sweets, we looked forward. We talked about what we were looking forward to, and what we were nervous about. This included sharing ways we could help each other if there were specific things that someone felt were difficult. *(Example: some said they wished they laughed more in the colder months, so we talked about keeping that in mind when we gather—watching a comedy instead of a drama, or playing a fun party game instead of a strategic one!)* We ended the night by giving this to God as well. Asking Him to take care of us during the Fall and Winter, and that we would remember He is the giver of all good things.









Photos from "Change of Season Celebration." We had 5 girls (and two pups) join us and it was such a sweet time of reflection

Conclusion

I will cap this update off here, but I will be in touch soon, as I sense God has some changes on the horizon that I hope to share with you.

Prayer Requests

Thank you so much for your prayers. I feel them and they are so appreciated. Over the next couple of weeks, here are my biggest praises and prayer requests:

- Prayer: When I moved to Germany, I did not have the monthly support I needed, but I was able to divide up the generous reserves from special donations given to serve as monthly support. I knew those reserves would last about two years, and they have. Now they have served their purpose, and I no longer have the full monthly support I need to serve in Germany. This doesn't immediately mean I have to leave— I can stay on a smaller salary for a bit of time, but it's not enough to live off of for more than six months. God has made it very clear I am where I am supposed to be, so I know he will provide, but it's overwhelming not knowing how. I will share more on this soon. As I reach out to more people and churches, please pray with me that God brings forward those who are meant to join my ministry so that I can continue serving in Germany and throughout Europe!

- Praise: For a surgery gone well and a successful conference that is already making waves throughout Europe!

Thank you for your continued support! If there are any ways I can encourage you, pray for you, or if you have any questions for me, please don't hesitate to reach out. As you support me, I hope to be a support for you.

Till next time, tschüss!

Emily Anderson